Spotlight on Gladwin 4-H!

Farm Central 4-H club spent last Sunday learning how to build bird houses as a club. Parents and kids had a great time working together on their own little bird houses. When asked what made Gwen Tweed, the leader of the Farm Central, chose this project area in particular she said “I allowed the kids to vote and this was what they wanted to do.”

Emily Colvin attended the State Rabbit and Cavy show January 27th at the MSU pavilion. She scored 90/100 points. She is a clover bud and this is the second time she has attended this show. When we spoke to Emily’s mother on the experience and asked her what her daughter thought of the state show she had this to say “Emily really likes the show and while she is a really reserved child she was really open when talking with the judge and she really wants to participate in more programs like this.”
Big Shout out to Keenan Simpkins, Member of the Gettin' Down on the Farm 4-H club. He attended his first Green and White Hog Show on January 27th at the MSU Pavilion. Keenan enjoys showing his pigs every chance he gets. He had the opportunity to showcase his own hogs that bred and born on his farm. While he did not place he truly enjoyed the experience and we look forward to seeing him show again next year. Also in attendance at the Green and White show was 4-H member and MSU Student Brandon Hoag, who took the opportunity to cheer on his fellow 4-Hers.

Gladwin 4-H program is sending four youth to the 4-H Horse Teen and Adult Leaders' Conference being hosted at Kettunen Center in Tustin, MI. The conference will focus on horse judging, equine first aid, dissection, veterinary care, and many more great learning opportunities. Danielle Klamer, Chloe Bruner, Heidi Inscho, & Alaina Cuddie all received partial scholarships from the Gladwin Leaders Council to attend. Congratulations to these four we look forward to seeing all the skills you bring back to Gladwin county.

To see all the photos check out our Facebook page at .https://www.facebook.com/Gladwin-County-4-H-100256330067082/. If you have a 4-H story and would like to be featured in the newsletter please contact the Gladwin MSU extension at prest142@anr.msu.edu or 989-426-7741
YPQA, Changing to YQCA

The National Pork Board (NPB) has made the decision to discontinue the Youth PQA Plus Program as of June 1st and make an investment in the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) program. With this change, moving forward, MSU Extension employees will not be able to serve as trainers for YQCA but will guide youth to YQCA when certification is needed. MSU employees trained in facilitating YPQA will still be able to provide training for YPQA until May 31st. For more information on this program change please see the attached article starting on page four of this newsletter.

Get to know you for Clubs

4-H clubs are always welcoming new members but, weather its your first meeting or your last you can always enjoy meeting your fellow members and learning something new about them. Here are just a few ice breaker ideas to ensure your club members get to know each other.

**Snow Ball Fight**—Here is a quick and really fun get-to-know-you activity. Have each member take out a sheet of notebook paper and write three interesting, but not widely known, facts about him or herself. Make sure they don’t put their name on it. Now have them crumple the paper up and begin the snowball fight (don’t really give more then 2 minutes of them tossing the paper around) once time is called members must retrieve a snowball and match the facts on them to a person in the room they believe they belong to.

**Toss-a-Name Game** - Have everyone make a circle. Toss a ball around the circle, person by person, with everyone saying their own name. When the ball comes back to you, say someone’s name across the circle and toss them the ball. The person you tossed the ball to says someone’s name across the circle and tosses the ball to them. (Make sure that no one is left out.) After everyone is fairly familiar with names, add a second ball and then another.

**The Human Knot**—In this icebreaker, participants hold hands, and then the object of the game is to get out of this “knot” without letting go of each other’s hands. Have the youth hold hands with someone positioned across from them with one hand and another with their other hand then without letting go they must untangle themselves. Great way to build leadership and cooperation skills as well as getting to know one another.
Youth Pork Quality Assurance Program

Introducing the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals Program

Posted on January 11, 2018 by Beth Ferry, Michigan State University Extension

For many years, the Youth Pork Quality Assurance (YPQA) Plus Program has been the core quality assurance certification program for youth who sell and exhibit their swine. Youth swine exhibitors need to become certified if they choose to sell their swine to a pork processor that requires certification. Some county fairs or livestock exhibitions also require youth swine exhibitors to become certified, including many where Michigan State University Extension Michigan 4-H youth participate.

Designed by the National Pork Board, the YPQA Plus Program was created to educate youth producers and help to prevent drug residues, ensure the wholesomeness of pork and pork products, and promote consumer confidence in pig well-being. Every three years, the content and delivery methods for the program were reviewed by an advisory committee made up of stakeholders, agriculture educators, Extension staff and pork producers. In 2015, the advisory committee elected to completely redesign the YPQA Plus program into an overarching, all-species quality assurance program, hence the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Program was created.

Throughout 2016 and 2017, YQCA Program components were identified by a task force committee and a curriculum development company was hired to create materials for the program. Starting in mid-2017, an online version of the YQCA program went live for youth involved in livestock projects and began offering livestock exhibitions the option of requiring their participants to gain certification in the YQCA program. Although the intended final roll-out date for the YQCA program was January 2018, delays in the platform development led to an extension of the existing YPQA Plus program until June 1, 2018.
Youth Pork Quality Assurance Program rollover information

As a result of the extension, the status of current (as of January 1, 2018) YPQA Plus advisors will be automatically extended until the end of May 2018. Advisors will be able to access the database, teach YPQA face-to-face sessions and certify youth by entering them into the database until this time. Youth with a current YPQA Plus certification will remain certified until the expiration date has passed; there will not be an extension for youth certifications. YPQA Plus certifications, as well as YQCA certifications, will be accepted by and could be required by processors and certain fairs and livestock exhibitions.

YQCA Program Components

YQCA is a national, multi-species quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21 with a focus on three core pillars: food safety, animal well-being and character development. This program mimics the YPQA Plus Program and highlights 10 good production practices for youth producers to review. The biggest difference between the programs is that YQCA is geared toward all market animal species and not limited to only youth pork producers. This new program includes information for youth raising the following food animals:

- Pigs
- Beef cattle
- Dairy cattle
- Sheep
- Goats
- Market rabbits
- Poultry

Youth can gain access to the program and receive certification in two different ways. The first is through the online YQCA system at YQCA.org, where youth will be asked to complete online modules and three correlated quizzes. Through this program delivery method, youth will receive approximately 60 minutes of instruction directly through the YQCA website. The YQCA Program will also offer instructor-led, face-to-face workshops for youth to receive their YQCA certification. To determine if a trainer is available near you, please contact the National Pork Board or YQCA.org.

Regardless of the method that is used to access the program, a standardized fee will be charged with payment made directly to the YQCA Program. For utilizing the online certification system, youth in Michigan will have to pay a $12 fee. When attending a face-to-face, instructor-led session, a $3 fee will be charged per participant. These fees will be used to maintain the YQCA program, keeping the content up-to-date with industry standards and government regulations, and delivered in an engaging and on-demand platform.
Youth Pork Quality Assurance Program rollover information

Agriculture education and FFA teachers can choose to become certified YQCA trainers. To gain certification, they will need to attend a scheduled webinar. For information on these training dates, please see the YQCA website.

While YQCA is a certification mandated by some pork processors and livestock exhibitions, it is also a helpful educational program that seeks to provide youth livestock exhibitors and producers with an educational platform that will enhance their knowledge of livestock species and quality animal care. To learn more about the YQCA Program or those with inquiries about the program, should visit their website.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit http://www.msue.msu.edu. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit http://www.msue.msu.edu/newsletters. To contact an expert in your area, visit http://expert.msue.msu.edu, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).
Dates to Remember

Equine Health & Nutrition class - February 8th from 6:30pm—8:00pm at MMCC Harrison in the Huntington room. Join us as Dr. Imlay Animal Health Association in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, will be joining us to discuss a common sense approach to equine health and nutrition. RSVP by February 6th, 2018

Gladwin 4-H Fish fry—February 9th from 3:45 - 8 at the Knights of Columbus hall. We need lots of volunteers and bake good for this fundraiser. Knights of Columbus also asked if a few youth could come the day before and help with set up.

Winterblast— February 10th from 10:00am-1:00pm at MMCC in Harrison. Great opportunity for youth of all ages to come out and have some winter fun. Bev is looking for a few teens to help volunteer with her. Great opportunity for those who need volunteer experience. Contact the office if interested

Roles and Parliamentary Procedure Workshop—February 12th—from 6-8pm in the at MMCC in Harrison in the superior room. RSVP by February 8th.

Horse ownership 101—February 13th—from 6:30-8pm in the at MMCC in Harrison in the Houghton room. RSVP by February 8th., 2018 Our presenter Taylor Fabus, MSU Extension Educator, will be discussing many of the basics of horse ownership. Costs for care, facilities, and competition will be discussed. Additionally, assessing equine welfare and proper management techniques will be highlighted.

4-H Tubing Party—February 17th—from 10:00am-12:00pm at snow snake. Cost $11.00 dollars a person. See flyer for more information. Liability must be signed before attending. Liability for is attached in this newsletter

Leaders Council Meeting—March 5th—at 6:30pm in the MSU Gladwin Extension office

Livestock Advisory Board Meeting—March 6th—at 6:00pm in the MSU Gladwin Extension office

Check out all the programs going on with the attached flyers !!!
EQUINE HEALTH & NUTRITION
Thursday, February 8, 2018
6:30-8pm
Mid Michigan Community College - Harrison: Superior Room

Dr. Alex Imlay of Animal Health Association in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, will be joining us to discuss a common sense approach to equine health and nutrition. Dr. Imlay will cover the importance of vaccinations and quality nutrition of your horse and pony project and also talk about how to prevent diseases. There will also be time to ask questions about any health concerns you may have about your horse or pony project.

HORSE OWNERSHIP 101
Tuesday, February 13, 2018
6:30-8pm
Mid Michigan Community College - Harrison: Houghton Room

Our presenter Taylor Fabus, MSU Extension Educator, will be discussing many of the basics of horse ownership. Costs for care, facilities, and competition will be discussed. Additionally, assessing equine welfare and proper management techniques will be highlighted. Those in attendance will leave with a great knowledge on what it takes to own and care for a horse, as well as access to many free resources offered by MSU Extension and other organizations.

Cost: Free for 4-H members. $20 for non 4-H members (includes 4-H membership)

To Register Contact:
Alex Schunk, Clare County 4-H Program Coordinator at 989-824-0738 or schunkal@anr.msu.edu
Melissa Preston, Gladwin County 4-H Program Coordinator at 989-426-7741 or prest142@anr.msu.edu

Michigan State University Extension
Gladwin County 4-H Fish Fry

Profits go to benefit Gladwin County 4-H Program
Fish Fry Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Gladwin

Friday, February 9th, 2018
4:00 pm-7:00 pm
Columbus Hall, Gladwin
751 S. M-18
Gladwin MI, 48624

Dinners $8.00 for Fish/$10.00 Fish & 6 Shrimp!
All you care to eat except shrimp.
A meal includes; coleslaw, baked or fried potatoes, baked or fried fish, vegetable or soup, beverage, and homemade dessert! Carryout Available!

Please remember to support Knights of Columbus in all their endeavors, 4-H is one of many fundraisers the Knights of Columbus sponsor we greatly appreciate all their efforts and support.

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A collaboration hosted by Mid Michigan Community College, Michigan State University Extension 4-H and Jay’s Sporting Goods.

winter BLAST
FREE FAMILY FUN

Join us as we have
a day of winter fun!
Sat., Feb. 10
10 am - 1 pm
Mid Michigan Community College
Harrison Campus
1375 S. Clare Avenue, Harrison

• Learn how to Geocach
• Create a pine cone birdfeeder
• Learn how to snowshoe
• Meet a team of sled dogs
• Make a Smore
• Try your skill at the Hockey Shootout
• Discover life under the ice
• Relax with popcorn and hot chocolate
and much, much more!

Join the Clare Conservation District Forester on a
guided snowshoe hike at 1 pm!
Must provide own snowshoes.

For more information (989) 539-7805 or (989) 386-6625.
Officer Roles and Parliamentary Procedure Workshop

DATE & TIME:
Monday, February 12, 2018
6-8pm

LOCATION:
Mid Michigan Community College—Harrison: Superior Room (Upstairs above SOAR Center)

COST:
FREE! Dinner Included

HOW TO REGISTER:
RSVP by January 18 to Clare County 4-H Program Coordinator, Alex Schunk 989-539-7805 or email schunkal@anr.msu.edu OR to Gladwin County 4-H Program Coordinator, Melissa Preston 989-426-7741 or email prest142@anr.msu.edu

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:
- 4-H members age 13 and up who are looking to add leadership roles to their 4-H experience
- 4-H members age 13 and up who currently hold an officer position in a club, association or Council or are considering holding an officer position in the future.
- 4-H adult volunteers who currently hold an officer position on an association or Council or are considering holding an officer position in the future.

DESCRIPTION:
Leadership skills training for youth and adults who have been elected as officers or who are looking to become officers in the future.
- What do each of the officer jobs include?
- Who can help their meetings be more efficient and fun?

Discover the basics of leadership and resources to help you on your journey!

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4-H Tubing Party

Saturday, February 17, 2018, from 10am to Noon
at Snow Snake Mountain in Harrison

- Cost: $11 a person. Due at time of event. Cash or credit card.
- Open to 4-H families and their friends
- Participants must be 36" tall to ride the tubes (Snow Snake rule!)
- All participants must have a liability form signed by a parent or guardian. Forms available through MSU Extension.
- Meet 15 minutes early to pay for tickets.

Questions? Contact Alex Schunk, Clare County 4-H Program Coordinator at 989-539-7805 or Melissa Preston, Gladwin County 4-H Program Coordinator at 989-426-7741

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SNOW SNAKE DAILY TUBING RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I understand and acknowledge that snow tubing is a HAZARDOUS ACTIVITY and that my and/or the Minor’s participation in snow tubing and use of Snow Snake’s tubes and Tubing Park has many risks and dangers which may result in personal injury, paralysis or death, including, but not limited to: collisions with walls/sides of the tubing runs, with other tubers or bystanders or other structures or debris in or near the Tubing Park area and run-out area; the chance of falling out of the tube; injuries sustained while using the conveyer lift system, negligence of other participants, and negligence on the part of Snow Snake, its agents, servants and employees. I realize that injuries during participation in tubing activities are a common occurrence and that snow conditions vary constantly in the tubing park because of weather changes and snow tubing use. I acknowledge and understand that the snow tube and any other equipment provided and/or used during tubing is provided AS IS and acknowledge that NO WARRANTIES are being extended to me and/or the Minor with respect to any aspect of snow tubing.

In consideration of Snow Snake allowing me and/or the Minor to tube, use Snow Snake’s related equipment, area facilities and parking areas, I expressly assume and accept any and all risks and dangers associated with my and/or the Minor’s participation in tubing and other activities at Snow Snake. In further consideration, I agree to Release, Hold Harmless, Indemnify and Defend Snow Snake, its employees and agents from and against any and all claims, suits, actions, including claims or suits brought by the Minor, including but not limited to: allegations of negligence, including the negligence of Snow Snake, its employees and agents, breach of contract, breach of any statutory duty or other duty of care and breach of express or implied warranty. I further agree to Indemnify, Hold Harmless and Defend Snow Snake, its employees and agents from any and all costs or expenses, without limitation, which Snow Snake sustains as a result of, related to, or alleged to be related to my or the Minor’s participation in tubing or other activities available on Snow Snake premises.

I HAVE READ THE ABOVE PARAGRAPHS AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THEM. I HAVE MADE NO FALSE REPRESENTATION TO SNOW SNAKE REGARDING MY NAME OR AGE.

Each person over the age of 17 must print name and sign.

Parents or Guardians of children under the age of 18 must print minors name and sign.

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W0838556
Michigan State University Extension

4-H Junior Master Gardener Workshop

When and where:
March 8, 2018 9:30 - 3:00
Room B102 Plant and Soil Sciences, Michigan State University

Who:
4-H members age 16-19 (as of January 1), Extension staff, teachers and volunteers interested in Junior Master Gardening and the all new Learn Grow Eat & Go curriculum to use in schools, after school programs, 4-H and partner programs.

Cost:
• $30.00
• Registration fee includes lunch and resources.

Registration information:
• The deadline to register for this event is March 1, 2018
• To register, visit https://events.anr.msu.edu/JMGC19Childrensgarden2018/
• Persons who do not show up at the workshop, do not have a replacement, or do not cancel to ANR Event Services at events@anr.msu.edu within 48 hours (March 6, 2018) prior to the start of workshop will be billed the full registration fee.

Find out more...
Visit the registration site for additional details, including the event handbook.

For more information, contact your county MSU Extension office or contact Jessica Wright at 517-353-0452, albrig30@msu.edu

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested on your registration form.

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Registration now open!

MICHIGAN 4-H ROBOTICS CHALLENGE

FEATURED CHALLENGES:
LEGO EV3 MINDSTORMS
JUNK DRAWER
VEX

MARCH 10 - 11, 2018
KETTUNEN CENTER
TUSTIN, MI

Register by February 20, 2018
Registration link:
https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HRobotics2018/

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SAVE THE DATE

CHALLENGE U 4-H FUNFEST

When: Saturday, March 17 2018, 9:30 a.m. through Sunday, March 18, 2018, 11:30 a.m.

Who: 9 -13 year olds as of January 1, 2018

Where: Kettunen Center
14901 4-H Drive
Tustin, MI 49686

What: Youth and adults who attend 4-H Challenge U funfest will spend 2 days learning about exciting project areas while meeting youth from around the state. 4-H Challenge U funfest offers participants and chaperones an opportunity to experience Kettunen Center in an overnight camp setting. Youth participate in hands-on sessions that will engage youth in learning about themselves, food, and being active.

Cost: Youth Registration Cost : $70
Chaperone Registration Fee: $70*
Registration fee includes: Three meals, overnight housing, all session supplies for four action packed sessions.

Registration information will be available January 2018!

For more information contact:
Michelle Neff (989) 539-7805
hydemich@msu.edu

* Chaperones need to go through proper screening to attend so plan accordingly.
MARCH 9, 2018

MOCK INTERVIEW DAY

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
8:00 AM - NOON

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
SARA KEINATH, SKEINATH@MSU.EDU
231-779-9480

Scan QR code or visit this page to register: https://goo.gl/forms/Gj11AUlbTrkHO4vy2
STATE 4-H GOAT EXPO

Contests:
- Quiz Bowl
- Breed Judging
- Skill-a-thon
- Illustrated Talk
- Creative Writing
- Educational Posters
- Cookery & Foods
- Arts & Crafts
- Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Cost:
$5 per participant, $3 per contest

Age Requirements:
All exhibitors must be aged 9 to 19 as of January 1, 2018. Want to become a 4-H member? Contact your county MSU Extension Office today!

Find out more...
For more information contact your county MSU Extension office or call Katie Ockert at (517) 432-5270 or ockertka@anr.msu.edu

Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested on your registration form.

To Register visit
https://events.anr.msu.edu/2018goatexpo/

April 14, 2018
Michigan State University, Anthony Hall
East Lansing, MI

The Michigan 4-H Goat Show is sponsored by Michigan 4-H Youth Development Programs, Michigan State University Extension.
Gratiot County 4-H Rabbit, Cavy and Poultry Show

April 21, 2018
Gratiot County Fair Grounds
701 S. Lincoln Ave.
Alma MI 48801
Registration begins at 7am. Entries must be in by 8am.
Rabbit show begins at 9am.
Poultry Show begins at 10am

Entry Fees:
$2.00 per class

- Showmanship: Juniors (9-11), Intermediate (12-14), Senior (15-19). Ages as of January 1, 2018. Cloverbuds will be judged by teen leaders.
- Breed Classes (Rabbit & Cavy only): All breeds that are recognized are eligible for show. All breeds will be judged by ARBA Standard of Perfection.
- Chickens will be pullorum tested at registration.

Rabbit Show Jumping Competition
- $3.00 per class
- 10 Jumps, 4 to 8 inches tall
- 3 Jumps per Rabbit
- Jump anytime between 9 am and Noon
- Awards Ceremony @ 12:30 pm

Donuts and coffee for purchase in the morning and pizza by the slice for sale around lunch.

Interested in being a vendor? Contact Laurie Gager 989-763-2650

Hosted by The Gratiot County Lucky Stars 4-H club and Cosponsored by The Gratiot 4-H Leader’s Council

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Save the Date!

Northern Michigan 4-H Rabbit and Poultry Palooza

Who: Youth ages 5-19 (as of 1/1/2018)

When: Saturday, May 5, 2018
Where: Kalkaska Fairgrounds
Clinic: 9:00 AM-2:00 PM
Showmanship: 2:00-4:00 PM

Complete information and registration available soon!

Educational Topics include:
Breed Identification, Health and Diseases, Nutrition, Selection, Showmanship, Cloverbud classes, and more.
Save the date for the 4-H Robotics Challenge

On March 10-11, Michigan 4-H members from across the state will gather at the Kettunen Center to participate in the 4-H Robotics Challenge.

Open to youth ages 12-16 as either individuals or a team, the event will include LEGO EV3, Junk Drawer Robotics, and VEX real-time challenges.

Registration for the 4-H Robotics Challenge will be available soon and will be due by Feb. 20.

4-H Workshops and Events

February 16-17: 4-H Veterinary Science Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop
Kettunen Center, Tustin
This workshop is designed for 4-H teens and adults who are fascinated by animal health and want to explore animal systems. Registration due Feb. 4. [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_veterinary_science_teen_and_adult_leaders_workshop](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_veterinary_science_teen_and_adult_leaders_workshop)

February 17: 4-H Dog Project Leaders and Judges Workshop
Michigan State University, East Lansing
Learn how agility, obedience, rally and showmanship classes are evaluated. Registration due Feb. 9. [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_dog_project_leader_and_judges_workshop_1](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_dog_project_leader_and_judges_workshop_1)

February 17-18: 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop
Kettunen Center, Tustin
Take your beef, sheep or swine project to the next level by attending this workshop and learning about animal health, management, care and nutrition. Registration due Feb. 4. [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_beef_sheep_and_swine_teen_and_adult_leaders_workshop2](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/4_h_beef_sheep_and_swine_teen_and_adult_leaders_workshop2)

February 19: Youth Business Guide to Success: Make the Most of Your Market Livestock Project Workshop
Saginaw Valley Research and Extension Center, Frankenmuth
Spend some time learning about the business and entrepreneurial aspects of your livestock project. Register by Feb. 15. [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/youth_business_guide_to_success_make_the_most_of_your_market_livestock_proj](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/youth_business_guide_to_success_make_the_most_of_your_market_livestock_proj)

February 24: Michigan 4-H Embryology Staff, Teacher and Volunteer Training
Grand Traverse County MSU Extension, Traverse City
This training is designed for educators who would like to learn how to implement an embryology program through classroom activities or 4-H SPIN clubs. [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_embryology_staff_teacher_and_volunteer_training_grand_traverse](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_embryology_staff_teacher_and_volunteer_training_grand_traverse)

March 9-11: Michigan 4-H Dairy Conference
Kettunen Center, Tustin
Learn about Michigan agriculture, increase knowledge of the dairy industry, and develop life skills! [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_dairy_conference_2](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/michigan_4_h_dairy_conference_2)

March 17-18: Challenge U 4-H FunFest
Kettunen Center, Tustin
Youth ages 9-13 will learn about food science and healthy living while meeting youth from around the state. [http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/challenge_u_4_h_funfest](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/events/challenge_u_4_h_funfest)

For the most up-to-date events listing, go to [http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events](http://4h.msue.msu.edu/events).
Capitol Experience registration now available!

All high school students have the opportunity to register for Michigan 4-H Capitol Experience, an annual four-day conference held in Lansing that focuses on civic engagement and public policy. Attend to experience state government in action and learn how you can influence policy issues.

Each participant will select and research an issue area, with topics ranging from animal agriculture, civil rights, education, technology, and more. Together, groups draft a bill related to the issue and move the bill through a legislative simulation. While spending time in Lansing, youth will interact with legislators, tour Michigan’s Capitol, discover how policy is made, explore potential politically-related careers and more!

Registration is available at https://events.anr.msu.edu/4HCapEx/ and is due by March 16.

World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute now accepting applications!

On May 10, Michigan youth passionate about addressing global food security will gather for the World Food Prize Michigan Youth Institute (WFPMIYI).

This life-changing experience offers the next generation of globally-minded leaders an opportunity to address international challenges through the investigation of new technology, potential academic pursuits, and future careers that will impact food insecurity across the world.

This year, the WFPMIYI will be held in two locations: Michigan State University and the Upper Peninsula Research and Extension Center in Chatham. Applications for the institute are due April 1. For more information, visit http://msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/wfpmiyi.

Youth Pork Quality Assurance roll-over information

For many years, the Youth Pork Quality Assurance (YPQA) Plus Program has been the core quality assurance certification program for youth who sell and exhibit their swine, including many Michigan 4-H’ers. In 2015, it was decided that the YPQA Plus program would be completely redesigned into an overarching, all-species quality assurance program known as the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA) Program.

The intended final roll-out date for the YQCA program was January 2018, however, delays in the platform development led to an extension of the existing YPQA Plus program until June 1, 2018. Youth with a current YPQA Plus certification will remain certified until the expiration date has passed; there will not be an extension for youth certifications. YPQA Plus certifications, as well as YQCA certifications, will be accepted by and could be required by processors and certain fairs and livestock exhibitions.

For more information about YPQA rollover, visit http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/youth_pork_quality_assurance_program_rollover_information.